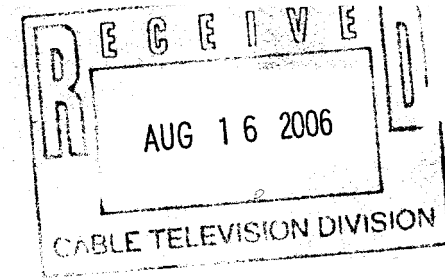




COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053



SENATOR ROBERT A. O'LEARY

CAPE, AND ISLAND DISTRICT

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Ms. Andrea Nixon, Clerk
Cable Television Division
Department of Telecommunications and Energy
One South Station
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COMMITTEES:

HIGHER EDUCATION, (CHAIR)

HOUSING, (VICE CHAIR)

ELDER AFFAIRS

ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES
AND AGRICULTURE

August 15, 2006

Dear Ms. Nixon,

I regret that I will be out of town and unable to attend the hearing scheduled for August 16, 2006 on proposed changes to current cable television licensing regulations, as outlined by CTV 06-1. However, I would like to express my strong opposition to the proposed revisions, as the changes ultimately would adversely affect customers and municipalities.

Verizon's proposal to reduce the competitive licensing period to 90 days imposes a mandatory timeframe that would not allow municipalities enough time to act in a responsible and comprehensive manner, addressing the many issues and interests surrounding applications. As you know, the process is highly complex and currently can take up to a year. The various Boards of Selectmen must review documents, assess needs, undergo negotiations, solicit input, and hold meetings, all the while continuing work on the countless unrelated issues faced by their towns and on their meeting agendas. A 90 day deadline for action would not allow enough time for these officials to fully examine the matters before them and make a responsible decision in the best interest of the town.

I support and encourage finding means to streamline the licensing process, but do not believe a mandatory 90 day time frame is the proper course of action. Delays result from both sides of the application. For example, it can take an applicant over 60 days to provide cost estimates for projects to the board of selectmen. And while increasing competition in order to reduce rates for customers is a goal towns are pursuing, it is but one of many goals they would like to achieve and there are numerous competing interests to be considered. This proposal would not allow for such comprehensive work to be done and I therefore do not support the revisions.

Thank you for your time on this important matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Very Truly Yours,

ROBERT A. O'LEARY
State Senator
Cape and Islands District